

Program Name:

Louisiana Council On Obesity Prevention and Management 2003-2004 Report to Legislature
Executive Summary

Impact on Louisiana:
*(current morbidity and mortality
stats w/state ranking)*

- Louisiana is ranked 8th highest in the country in obesity
- Louisiana is in the top 6 states in obesity related total medical expenditures
- Louisiana is in the top 6 states in Medicaid obesity related medical expenditures
- In 2003 estimated total health expenditures related to obesity in Louisiana were \$1,373,000,000.00
- In 2003 estimated Medicaid health expenditures related to obesity in Louisiana were \$525,000,000.00

(Obesity Research Vol. 12 No.1 January 2003)

Program Functions:

- Studying the issues related to obesity in Louisiana
- Collecting data on Obesity in Louisiana
- Developing recommendations for improving society's awareness regarding the health risks associated with obesity
- Suggesting modalities for treatment
- Developing a statewide comprehensive plan to address Obesity in Louisiana
Coordinates the Legislatively mandated Louisiana Council on Obesity Prevention and Management.
- Increased funding for infrastructure is needed to implement a comprehensive statewide plan to address obesity in Louisiana and to attract grant money. Details of this funding are included in this report.

Services Provided
2003:
(year)

- Presented a conference on Childhood obesity for school officials, food service personnel, teachers, parents, school nurses, and others.
- Was instrumental in passing legislation that requires 30 minutes of physical activity in public schools grades k-5 each day
- Conducted a statewide survey of principals to determine which policies and practices in nutrition, physical activity, and education were contributing to childhood obesity.
- Working with community partners to develop the Louisiana on the Move program which encourages walking 2000 additional steps a day and decreasing calories by 100 daily to avoid weight gain. This is in conjunction with America on the Move.
- Developing a Web site to educate the general public, insurers, health care providers and others on the consequences of obesity.
- Producing a supplement to the Louisiana Medical Society Journal on Obesity which will provide continuing education credits to all the physicians in the society. This will be provided to other health care providers as funds become available
- Worked with Pennington Biomedical Research Center to compile a report on the treatment modalities for obesity and their effectiveness in response to

SCR 153.

- Have had discussions with the Medicaid program to develop Toolkits for the Community Care Providers on Obesity prevention and treatment.
- Assisted in writing and implementing the STEPs CDC grant in New Orleans 2004
- Developing an initiative which would require any vending machine, school store or concession stand food or drink contracts with public schools to provide only healthy food and drink items. The first phase of this initiative was a survey to determine how many schools had these venues, the amount of revenue schools are receiving through these venues, and if they had exclusive rights with individual companies. The next phase was the development of a list of recommended foods and drinks which will be tested in a pilot program in the next several months. The final phase will be the adoption of these healthy food and drink contract requirements into school standards. Legislative action will be taken to ensure that the standards are adhered to. Monitoring of the implementation of this standard is to be worked out.
- Conducting a conference on Worksite Wellness on April 14, 2004 with an emphasis on Obesity in conjunction with the Pennington Biomedical Research Center and the Environment and Health Council.
- Working with the Department of Education to develop a Coordinated School Health program in Louisiana
- Continuing to work with partners such as the Cancer Society, the American Heart Association, Five A Day, and others to increase physical activity and improve nutrition in the schools.
- Developing a handout on childhood obesity to be used by the members of the Louisiana Chapter of the American Association of Pediatrics